

**Abstract**

An optical network comprising a network management station, at least one source network element associated with the network management station, and at least one destination network element, wherein the source network element comprises a source proxy for sending an OSC signal in the form of IP datagrams to the destination network element under the control of the management station, the source proxy being arranged in a manner such that, in use, it sends duplicate IP datagrams along two different optical paths to the destination network element, and wherein the destination network element comprises a destination proxy arranged to pass one of the duplicate IP datagrams into the destination network element for processing and to filter out for disposal the other one.